

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continuation Application of :  
Application No. 09/560,184 )  
:  
HARUO MACHIDA ) : Prior Group Art Unit: 2151  
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned )  
:  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
:  
For: DATA PROCESSING )  
APPARATUS, DATA :  
PROCESSING METHOD, )  
AND STORAGE MEDIUM :  
STORING COMPUTER- )  
READABLE PROGRAM : December 30, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified continuation application, please  
amend the application as follows.